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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VATICAN 004483

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DEPT FOR EUR/WE (MENNUTI)

FROM EMBASSY VATICAN/MESSAGE NO. 140/001

E.O. 12958: DECL:8/28/11

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SUBJECT: VATICAN URGES U.S. PRESENCE AT WCAR, PLEDGES TO WORK FOR COMPROMISES.

CLASSIFIED BY CDA A.I. JOSEPH MERANTE, REASON 1.5(D).

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PAGE 02 VATICA 04483 01 OF 02 281608Z

1. (C) SUMMARY: THE VATICAN IS STRONGLY URGING U.S. PRESENCE AT WCAR, AT LEAST AT THE WORKING LEVEL. ACKNOWLEDGING U.S. CONCERNS, DELEGATION DEPUTY AND AMCIT MONSIGNOR FRANK DEWANE PLEDGED VATICAN WILLINGNESS TO WORK FOR COMPROMISES IN THE FINAL WCAR DOCUMENT. NONETHELESS, MSGR. DEWANE TOLD POLOFF THAT WCAR CANNOT IGNORE A PATTERN OF WHAT HE TERMED RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WITHIN ISRAEL, ACCENTUATED SINCE THE BREAKDOWN OF THE PEACE PROCESS. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) POLOFF MET 8/27 WITH VATICAN WCAR DELEGATION DEPUTY AND AMCIT MONSIGNOR FRANK DEWANE. MSGR. DEWANE ACKNOWLEDGED U.S. SENSITIVITIES ABOUT THE DURBAN CONFERENCE WHICH HAD LED TO THE DECISION AGAINST ATTENDANCE BY THE SECRETARY. HOWEVER, MSGR. DEWANE URGED SOME FORM OF U.S.

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ATTENDANCE, AT LEAST AT THE WORKING LEVEL. APART FROM THE NEED FOR U.S. INPUT, MSGR. DEWANE ARGUED THAT THE U.S., DESPITE EVIDENT SHORTCOMINGS, REPRESENTED AN OVERALL SUCCESS STORY IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM THAT REMAINS A GLOBAL MODEL. HE PLEDGED THAT IN DURBAN THE VATICAN WOULD WORK WITH THE USG FOR COMPROMISES IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT.

3. (C) MSGR. DEWANE EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION FOR THE STAUNCH U.S. DEFENSE AT WCAR OF ISRAEL. HOWEVER, WCAR, HE INSISTED, COULD NOT IGNORE THE FACT OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WITHIN ISRAEL, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE VOLATILE AND VIOLENT CLIMATE IN THE MIDDLE EAST THAT HAS FOLLOWED THE BREAKDOWN OF THE PEACE PROCESS. A PALESTINIAN IN ISRAEL SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS AN ISRAELI, ACCORDING TO MSGR. DEWANE. MSGR. DEWANE  
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PAGE 03 VATICA 04483 01 OF 02 281608Z  
SINGLED OUT CURTAILED OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR PALESTINIANS, WHO ARE SUBJECT TO CHECKS AND CONTROLS THAT HE LIKENED TO REPRESSIVE POLICE PRACTICES IN CHINA AND THE ERSTWHILE SOVIET UNION. NONETHELESS, MSGR. DEWANE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF WCAR BECAME A VEHICLE FOR ANTI-SEMITIC PREJUDICE AND ATTACKS ON ZIONISM. THE VATICAN, HE NOTED, HAD REITERATED ITS CONDEMNATION OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN A PAMPHLET ON THE CHURCH AND RACISM, RE-RELEASED WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION LAST WEEK IN ADVANCE OF WCAR.

4. (C) CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAD RADICALLY ALTERED THE WCAR AGENDA, OFFERED MSGR. DEWANE. ORIGINALLY, THE VATICAN ANTICIPATED ONLY A "DEEP APOLOGY" RATHER THAN "REPARATIONS" FROM DEVELOPED WESTERN NATIONS FOR THE ILLS OF COLNIALISM. MSGR. DEWANE COMMENTED THAT THE VATICAN HAS LATELY DISCOVERED THE DIPLOMATIC VALUE OF ANAPOLOGY. HOWEVER, THE VATICAN NOW FAVORS SOME FRM OF COMPENSATION RATHER THAN ONLY A COST-FREE EA CULPA. DEBT RELIEF, IN PARTICULAR, REMAINED ACONSIDERABLE CHALLENGE, WITH WESTERN NATIONS, DEPITE SOME PROGRESS, STILL LARGELY SHIRKING THEIR MORAL RESPONSIBILITY.

5. (C) COMMENTING ON THE PREPCOM MEETINGS IN GENEVA, MSGR. DEWAYNE EXPRESSED FRUSTRATION AT THE TACTICS OF CERTAIN DELEGATIONS, WHO EXPLOITED WCAR TO DEFLECT ATTENTION FROM THEIR OWN DOMESTIC ABUSES AND HAD USED THE DELIBERATIONS TO WEAKEN OTHER U.N. DOCUMENTS, SUCH AS THE CONVENTION ON THE CHILD. MSGR. DEWANE REPEATEDLY FINGERED THE PAKISTANI DELEGATION AS UNCOOPERATIVE, NONETHELESS CONCEDING ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN DIVERTING WCAR FROM THE MALTREATMENT OF CHRISTIANS IN PAKISTAN. THE VATICAN, MSGR. DEWANE NOTED,  
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PAGE 04 VATICA 04483 01 OF 02 281608Z  
HAD SUCCESSFULLY RETAINED LANGUAGE IN THE PREPCOM DOCUMENTS TO PROTECT RELIGIOUS MINORITIES AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, DESPITE INITIAL OPPOSITION FROM EU NEGOTIATORS AS WELL AS THE PRC DELEGATION.

16. (C) COMMENT: MSGR. DEWANE LEFT A STRONG IMPRESSION OF VATICAN DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE OUTCOME OF WCAR. WHILE VATICAN SYMPATHIES LIE STRONGLY WITH THE PALESTINIAN POPULATION WITHIN ISRAEL, THE HUE AND CRY AT WCAR OVER ZIONISM AS RACISM REPRESENTS A LOST OPPORTUNITY FOR THE VATICAN TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE PLIGHT OF CHRISTIAN MINORITIES ELSEWHERE, WHO OFTEN ARE ALSO ETHNIC/RACIAL MINORITIES. VATICAN AMBIVALENCE, HOWEVER, DOES NOT TRANSLATE INTO ALIGNMENT WITH U.S. INTERESTS. YET THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THE VATICAN WOULD LIKE WCAR TO LOOK BEYOND THE HORIZONS OF CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

17. (C) COMMENT C'TD: VATICAN AMCIT MSGR. DEWANE, UNDERSECRETARY-EQUIVALENT AT THE CONGREGATION ON JUSTICE

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PAGE 01 VATICA 04483 02 OF 02 281608Z  
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00
	SRPP-00	EAP-00	EB-00	ED-01	OIGO-00	VC-00	HHS-01
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01
	NEA-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OPIC-01	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	SA-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00
	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/010W				

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FM AMEMBASSY VATICAN  
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INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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AND PEACE, IS A VETERAN OF MULTILATERAL ASSEMBLIES,  
INCLUDING CAIRO AND BEIJING. ARCHBISHOP DIARMUID MARTIN,  
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PAGE 02 VATICA 04483 02 OF 02 281608Z  
PREVIOUSLY AT THE CONGREGATION ON JUSTICE AND PEACE AND  
CURRENTLY VATICAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE U.N. IN GENEVA,  
WILL HEAD THE DELEGATION. BOTH HAVE BEEN UNUSUALLY  
RECEPTIVE TO USG VISITORS AND MISSION PERSONNEL.  
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